evaluated the Technical Bids and submitted its evaluation report to the Management in February 2005.

(b) Applicable procedures and guidelines in this regard have been followed.

Concession Agreement for a green field Airport near Hyderabad

1402. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of Malaysia have signed a concession agreement for a greenfiled airport near Hyderabad;

(b) what is the minimum standard of performance specified for the proposed international airport near Hyderabad;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed within which this airport is going to be completed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) A Concession Agreement between Government of India and Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL) was signed on 20th December, 2004.

(b) The airport has to achieve a minimum lATA rating of 3.5 out of 5 (in the lATA scale of 1 to 5) as per the lATA Global Airport Monitor Service Standards.

(c) and (d) Atime-frame of 36 months from the date of Financial Closure has been fixed for completion of the airport.

Virgin Atlantic's direct Air Services in India

1403. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allowed Virgin Atlantic (VA) to operate in India directly an cancelled its earlier arrangement; and

(b) if so, the details about the loss to Air India therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) and (b) The commercial agreement between Air India and Virgin Atlantic, under which Virgin Atlantic was earlier operating thrice weekly flights to India utilising our entitlements, had been terminated